

According to the Foundation for the Blind there are approximately 10 million blind people in the United States. The National Association of the Deaf report an estimated 22 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing, and there are a variety of other disabilities that affect the accessibility to audio-visual devices.

Today I joined Congressman ED MARKEY in introducing this legislation to ensure that American citizens with disabilities have full access to the information that the rest of us take for granted.

RECOGNIZING SAM KELTNER OF
VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sam Keltner of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Sam's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Sam's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. In earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Sam worked on behalf of Real Life Christian Church to help others, providing moveable storage crates for the church and fellowship. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader, completing the Venturing Scout program, receiving the BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the Physical Fitness QUEST program.

Sam has devoted time and energy to excellence in physical fitness, improving his speed in running and playing a diversity of sports. His incredible effort enabled him to reach a time of a little over 14 minutes for a 5k run. By maintaining his own physical fitness, Sam continues to push himself to achieve more, and engage in new opportunities for advanced leadership experience including the 2006 COPE Program, his membership with U.S. Track and Field, and his involvement with the First Colonial High School Varsity Cross Country Track Team.

Sam has become a role model not only for his peers, but for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our Nation's youth who have set and achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Sam's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

REVISING SHORT TITLE OF THE
FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA
PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT
KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAU-
THORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today in support of S. 188. In passing this bill, we will honor true pioneers in the struggle for civil rights by adding the names of Cesar Chavez, Barbara Jordan, William Velasquez, and Dr. Hector Garcia to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Today, we honor their instrumental role in the struggle for civil rights, and celebrate the historic contributions and enduring legacy of these great Americans.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a Mexican immigrant who came to Texas fleeing the violence of the Mexican Revolution in 1917, and through hard work and tenacity became a doctor, soldier, and true American hero. After being wounded in battle and fighting for VA benefits, he founded the American G.I. forum to help Mexican Americans claim the VA benefits they had earned. After World War II, the American G.I. Forum became the leading voice for Mexican American veterans. As a resident of my hometown Corpus Christi, Dr. Garcia was an inspiration to me because he stood tall for veterans to see that they received the benefits they have earned through service to country.

It is my hope that Hispanic Americans, who have time and again served our Nation in combat with distinction, will take special pride in knowing that Dr. Hector P. Garcia will forever stand as a symbol of all Hispanics who have so patriotically served America in uniform.

Dr. Garcia first became a national figure when he successfully fought for the burial rights of Private Felix Longoria, killed in the line of duty during World War II. After Private Longoria's widow's request to have him buried in their hometown cemetery in Three Rivers Texas was denied, Dr. Garcia and the American G.I. Forum took his case to Senator Lyndon Johnson, who pushed to have Private Longoria buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Garcia, Private Longoria became the first Mexican American to be honored with a burial at Arlington.

Dr. Garcia's groundbreaking work to advance the cause of Hispanic civil rights continued for decades and he became a trusted adviser to American presidents. His successful efforts to break down barriers and desegregate American society, improve working conditions, increase access to health care and educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans became legendary and deserve our utmost respect.

Dr. Garcia's many accomplishments and honors include:

The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984.

Appointment as alternate U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

The U.S. Army's Bronze Star and six battle stars for his service in World War II.

The American G.I. Forum's Medalla al Merito in 1952, for his work with Mexican American veterans.

The Distinguished Service Award from the National Office of Civil Rights, 1980.

The National Hispanic Leadership Conference's Hispanic Heritage Award, 1989.

The Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II, 1990.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas just four houses down the street from Dr. Garcia and his family. His life's commitment to the cause of civil rights was an inspiration to me in my youth and played an important role in my entering public service. It was an honor to call him my friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, with deep respect for the life and extraordinary accomplishments of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, I urge my colleagues to support S. 188.

HONORING DAN MEYER FOR WIN-
NING THE CABLE'S LEADERS IN
LEARNING AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it's with great honor that I congratulate my constituent, Dan Meyer, a teacher with the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District who has been selected to receive the Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for creating and implementing innovative ways to educate students. He is one of 14 national winners selected from a pool of 44 finalist applications.

As the sole winner in the "Pushing the Envelope with Cable Technology and Programming" category, he is being recognized for improving algebra instruction by creating and posting a video lesson for teachers online. Mr. Meyer found a way to improve algebra instruction and share it with math teachers worldwide. After spending three weeks helping students to understand a single algebra equation, he came to the conclusion that using video as a teaching tool was the answer. He produced 10 short videos to accompany his lesson plan, and was shocked at the pace his students learned the once confusing algebraic equations after viewing the videos.

Mr. Meyer decided to post the video and lesson plan on his blog and its viewings jumped from 30 visitors a day to 6,000 downloads in two weeks. His teaching technique has now been shared with teachers all over the country and our Nation's students are better for his efforts.

Our Nation depends on teachers like Dan Meyer who use technology and innovation to help students learn and grow. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan Meyer for his extraordinary leadership and distinguishing himself as a Cable's Leaders in Learning Award recipient.